

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The STC has contracted for import of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat as per details given below:

Country	Contract Date	Qty. in lakh MT	Price per MT in US\$
Australia	26.3.97	2.50	155.00 FOB
		7.50	154.25 FOB

The average C and F rate of imported wheat would be approximately Rs. 6220 per MT.

(c) Approximate handling charges for imported wheat in Indian ports would be Rs. 167 per MT. The cost of transportation would depend on the final destination and actual cost would be known only after total despatches of imported wheat from the ports are over.

(d) Imported wheat will be added to the Central Pool stocks and will be utilised for the Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. Sale price of imported wheat will be the same as that of indigenous wheat and would depend on the scheme under which it is issued. The landed cost of imported wheat at the distribution point will depend on the distance from the port of landing.

(e) Excluding transport, insurance, handling charges etc., the actual price which farmers in Australia get will be around Rs. 3960/- per MT. The Minimum Support Price for wheat in India has been fixed at Rs. 4150/- per MT and additional Rs. 60/- per MT is given as bonus to the farmers for 1997-98.

National Research Centre on Grapes

4828. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted any proposal for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND

MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka offered land for the purpose. The Site Selection Team after visiting all the sites offered by these State Governments recommended Manjri Farm of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in Pune District of Maharashtra for the establishment of National Research Centre on Grapes. The National Research Centre on Grapes has already been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Pune and research activities initiated.

State Farms Corporation of India

4829. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether primary objective of the State Farms Corporation of India is to produce and market quality seeds in the country;

(b) whether this Corporation has been suffering financial losses for the last many years;

(c) if so, the details of profit and losses incurred during each year since 1990-91;

(d) the manner in which the functions of this Corporation and the National Seeds Corporation materially differ from each other;

(e) whether the Government had ever considered the question of the merger of these two organisations;

(f) if so, the result thereof; and

(g) the primary reasons for having two separate infrastructure functioning basically for the similar objectives and activities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The profit and loss of the Corporation since 1990-91 are as under:

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs) Profit(+)/Loss(-)
1990-91	(+) 141.62
1991-92	(+) 208.14
1992-93	(-) 603.87
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+) 281.67
1995-96	(+) 117.47